

Pocket Pets Health & Safety



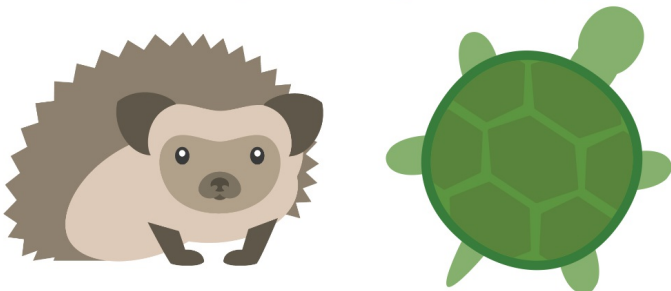
Congratulations on your new pet!



We all love pets! Pet ownership is fun, educational, provides companionship and teaches responsibility.

Part of that responsibility is learning how to safely handle your pet. Some pets can carry germs like Salmonella that can make us sick if not handled correctly.

Certain animals are more likely to carry these germs, such as reptiles (e.g. turtles, snakes, lizards) amphibians (e.g. frogs, toads, salamanders) and rodents (e.g. hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs).



Many of these animals appear healthy but can still spread germs.

This doesn't mean that we can't enjoy our pets.



We just need to follow a few rules that will keep us safe!

Practice safe handling with these few rules:



Handwashing

ALWAYS wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling animals, their food or habitat (e.g. cage, bedding, etc.)



Veterinary Care

In addition to scheduling routine evaluations, be sure to take your pet to a veterinarian if it looks sick.



Habitat

Keep pets in their habitat and do not let them roam the house, especially areas where young children interact.



Keep pets and their habitat out of the kitchen where food is prepared and served, as well as areas where dishes are cleaned.



Choose the right pet for your family. Some pets are not appropriate for young children, elderly people and people with weakened immune systems.



Do not kiss your pet or let it kiss you. Keep your pet away from your face.

For more information about keeping your family safe, go to: www.pocketpethealth.org



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